



BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 29th Year
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WISCONSIN 9 CIRCUS

By Richard Regent, K9GDF

America's Great Circus Parade show grounds and staging area were at Veterans Park in Milwaukee for 1998. The Park is a huge, grassy flat area east of downtown skyscrapers and Lincoln Memorial Drive on the shores of Lake Michigan. Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, with ARRL's efforts, obtained FCC approval to use the special event call sign W9C during Baraboo Circus week. First, Jim made 2-meter contacts while traveling on the Circus train ride (see his article in BSSS). Next he offered use of the call W9C to Bob, K9KJT, who got Les, W9YCV, involved in scheduling operators for the remainder of the event period.

The day before the W9C Veterans Park operation began Les, Bob and I check the proposed site. The Park takes on the colors of red and gold, the imprint of horse hooves, the trumpeting of elephants, the sound of children's laughter and throaty groan of rolling circus wagon wheels. Nearby, men brush and spray several camels to keep them cool in the hot sunshine and get ready to give kids rides. A watery mist, carried by breezes, drifts through our future operating area and makes planning a bit hilarious.

On the first operating day, July 29, a vehicle traffic controller asks that I check with Keri Olson, Public Relations Director, before unloading equipment and setting up. He apparently thinks that the word "radios" means we are from the news media. Scurrying from the roadway to the information booth and then to an office tent, I talk my way through four groups of administrators. Finally I find Keri, who is very helpful. We are cleared to use the green-and-white striped tent and set up W9C.

While in the office area an older gentleman in light-blue coveralls with matching cap asks if I need help. He has a name tag that says "Schultz" and embroidered on the back is a very colorful clown face. Schultz hands me a slip of paper and says I should write what I need.

Les and I set up the station in less than an hour and a half. We have plenty of pipe clamps but no screwdriver. Finally, the antenna is up for just one moment, when K9KJT arrives and suggests a major change; move the center of the antenna from a tent leg to a pole behind the tent. I use a pair of pliers to unscrew the hose clamps, make the move and hope I have enough strength left to operate CW. We connect W9YCV's Icom-751A transceiver to electrical power and K9KJT's 102-foot dipole to the antenna tuner. Unfortunately my MFJ-496 keyboard doesn't work with the transceiver built-in keyer because it has incompatible tip-ring-sleeve jack wiring. So I quickly learn to send with an iambic paddle Les happened to bring along.

The first W9C contact is with Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on 7,040 kHz CW. After several SSB QSOs we are surprised at the difficulty of telling folks that we have a one-by-one call sign. We would say "Special event station W9C, Wisconsin Nine Circus, W 9 C." Even if our special call sign was short, it was definitely unusual. A few folks think we are kidding. One weak station on the 20-meter SSB frequency we use briefly calls CQ and identifies himself as "W9B, B for Big!"

There is plenty of loud music in the area. In the tent to the south is a hand crank Dutch street organ operated by visitors with a hand crank wheel. Les and I rest our arms for a minute from sending code to crank the calliope and play music. To the north, separated by a tent, is a huge electrically-operated band organ. Visitors sit in many white plastic chairs positioned in front of the calliope and listen to the circus tunes. Another band organ is about 100 feet to the southwest. The newly restored American Steam Calliope, which has four daily concerts, is somewhere too. This is not like Field Day in the country!

A little later Schultz comes around to check how we're doing. I didn't recognize him until he opened up his folder and centered in a clear sheet protector was my hand written



FCC proposes to streamline amateur rules

The FCC has proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place--Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific changes. And the FCC proposed to permit Advanced class licensees to administer amateur exams up through General class. The proposals were among several suggested rules changes and invitations to comment contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket 98-143, made public August 10.

In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC said "there appears to be an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus license classes." The FCC also said that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. In addition, the FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current examination elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database. The proposal would eliminate the 5 WPM

code test, Element 1A, as a required element for any class of license.

The elimination of the Novice and Tech Plus license classes would effectively raise the bar for future applicants desiring to gain HF operating privileges, unless the FCC ultimately reduces Morse code testing requirements. Since the General class license would become the entry-level HF ticket under the FCC's proposed rules, applicants would have to pass at least the 13 WPM code test.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seek comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200-W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200 W output.

The FCC opened the door to comments on all aspects of Morse code testing from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system--and, if so, at what required speeds. The FCC asked whether hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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✕ Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 1998. Peoria Area ARC SUPERFEST, Exposition Gardens, Peoria IL. Contact: Superfest '98, P.O. Box 3508, Peoria IL 61616-3508.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 & 27. RADIO EXPO 98. Lake County Fairgrounds Rts. 45 & 120, Grayslake, IL. Contact: Chicago FM Club, PO Box 56724, Harwood Hts. IL. 560656-0724. (708) 457-0966. <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1998. 13th annual "6.91 Friendly Fest, at the Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, N1 W24848 Northview Rd., Waukesha, WI. I-94 to County J, South to FT, West to Expo. Open 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sellers admitted at 5:30 a.m. Tickets \$5.00. 4-foot tables \$5.00. On-site Amateur exams. Contact: KB9PHA, Mike, (414) 258-4435 or Milwaukee Repeater Club, PO Box 2123, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Web page <http://www.execps.com/~mrc/friendlyfest.htm>

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1998. Fox Cities Hamfest, Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 & County JJ North of Kaukauna, WI. VE testing (contact: Larry Siebers, KD9IA, (920) 757-1167, Food and Refreshments, Vendor setup 6:00 a.m., Doors open 8:00 a.m. Contact: Chad Pernings, N9PRC, 1912 Russett Ct., Apt. 7, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 993-0485.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1999. West Allis Radio Amateur Club, 27th annual Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact: WARAC, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1072.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1999. Red Cedar Repeater Association Auction. American Legion Post 53, 634 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI. Contact: Steve Hart, KA9OMC, E616 810th Ave., Knapp, WI 54749. (715) 665-2374.

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1999. MARA Swapfest, Madison, WI. Middleton Conference Center. (Same place as last year, but new name.) Contact: MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890.

Badger State Smoke Signals

*Amateur Radio
Education and Information*

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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
2 years	(24 issues - save \$1.95)	\$25.95
3 years	(36 issues - save \$3.90)	\$37.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1999. South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, American Legion Park, Shepard Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI. Contact South Milwaukee ARC, P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. (414) 762-3235.

See also the back page and flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.



CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please save the following listings for your future reference. We hope to have the full listing at least three times a year, and will carry any changes or additions between full listings.

ARROWHEAD RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.
(Superior, WI)

The monthly meeting of the ARAC is held on the second Tuesday of the month at the WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st Street, Superior, Wisconsin, at 7:30 p.m. Board meetings are held prior to the regular meeting.

BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
(W9YT - U. W. - MADISON)

Monthly while school in session - 2nd Tue. - 5:30 p.m. - B-265G, Electrical Engineering Bldg. For more information call (608) 262-1142.

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. **THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.**

This newspaper is produced by volunteer radio amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.
(STEVENS POINT)
Second Wed..

EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2nd Tue. - 7:30 p.m. - Parks and Recreation Bldg., Oxford and 1st Streets, Eau Claire. Hams, guests welcome. Travelers welcome on wide area club repeater K9UXP, 146.31/91.

FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC
The Falls Amateur Radio Club, Inc. meets the last Wednesday of the month at the Bank One building in Germantown, WI at Pilgrim and Mequon Roads. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. !!GUESTS ARE WELCOME!!

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MADISON WI)
First and third Tues - 7:30 p.m. - Red Cross Bldg., 4860 Sheboygan Ave., room "C" downstairs. It is the next building west of the Hill Farms State Office building. The meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm.

FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Third Mon. - 7:00 p.m. - Madison Junior High School, 2020 South Carpenter Street, Appleton, WI. Info: Chad (414) 993-0485.

GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION
Fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (414) 363-4439, garyk9gs@solaria.sol.net, K9GS@WA9KEC.WI.USA.NOAM, Packet cluster: NB9C, for meeting location.

GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB
Second Thur. 7:30 pm - Media Services area of the J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere.

GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Third Mon. - 7:30 p.m. - Green Lake Town Hall, int. of county hwy. K and N.

KETTLE MORAINÉ RADIO AMATEURS
Second Fri., 7:30 p.m. at the Waukesha County Technical College, Campus Science Building, Room 102. Talk-in on the N9KS 147.39 repeater.

LAKESHORE RPTR. ASSN.
Last Tue., Jan., Apr., Jul., & Oct., 7:30 p.m. Red Cross Bldg., 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

M & M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
General meeting held second Thursday each month at 7:00 p.m. in cafeteria of BAMC, basement, Tenth Ave., Menominee, MI. All amateurs and guests are welcome. Use the 147.000+ repeater. Our net is Sunday at 7:00 p.m. on the repeater. Our address is P.O. Box 1082, Marinette, WI 54143.

MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS
Directors Meeting: First Wed. Held at 6:30 p.m. in the basement, Manitowoc City Hall, 817 Franklin St., Manitowoc.

General meeting: Second Wed. Held at 7:30 p.m. at Associated Manitowoc Bank, corner of 10th and Franklin Streets.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB
Last Thursday evening, Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa 53222. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. 12 months of the year.

NORTHWOODS ARC (RHINELANDER WI)
Third Tue.. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. South Park School, Rhineland, WI. Talk-in on 146.94/34. All interested visitors to the Northwoods are welcomed.

OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB
Second Wed. - 7:30 p.m. - Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center.

QCWA - WISCONSIN CHAPTER #55
Contact Erwin Froelich, W9RZW, Treasurer, Rte 1 Box 177D, Pine River WI 54965. For information about meeting dates or joining QCWA Chapter #55. The Wisconsin Chapter holds Spring and Fall dinner meetings.

QCWA - SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN CHAPTER #162
Meets third Mon. monthly, 7:30 p.m., Around the Clock Restaurant, 3012 Rapids Drive, Racine.

RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB
Second Mon., 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Bldg., 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

Saturday coffee at Hardees in North Menomonie, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9:00 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at The Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart shopping center, for the months of January, March, April and September through November. Guests welcome.

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

First Tue. - 7:00 p.m. - Onalaska Community Center, Onalaska WI.

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB

Monthly - first Tue. - 7:30 p.m. at Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI.

ARES Net: 146.04/146.64 Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Sats on 7277 KHz at 10:30 a.m.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Second Tue. - 7:00 p.m. - Sheboygan Red Cross/Boy Scout Bldg., 2032 Erie Ave.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

First Wed. - Legion Post 434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek WI. Auctions in March and October.

ST. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS HUDSON

Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the St. Croix County Emergency Government Center on Charmichael Road in Hudson, WI. A short business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. followed by the program. Talk in is available on the 145.130 MHz repeater. All are welcome!

TAYLOR COUNTY AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TCAARC)

MEDFORD

Usually the 1st Thur. of the month at 7:00 PM sharp. Usual location: emergency government meeting room/Red Cross office, basement of Sheriff's Annex to Taylor County Courthouse, 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on 147.15 (+600) repeater. Amateurs & guests are welcome. ARES Net, Wed. nights at 8:30 PM on 147.15 (+600) repeater. For info contact: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405, phone (715) 223-3996.

TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings held at members homes. Usually monthly on Sunday afternoon. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, (414) 563-6502 or John Saterlee, (414) 563-6381.

WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Second Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Court House. Net on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. on 146.73.

WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

First Thur. of the month at 7:00 p.m., The Watertown Public Library, 100 S. Water St., Watertown, WI.

WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

First Sat. in March, June, September and December, at 9:30 a.m. at the Waupaca Fire Station in downtown Waupaca.

"CQ First Tue." - A social gathering and dutch treat luncheon at the King's Table in King, WI, on Highway QQ just south of highways 10 and 54 on the west side of Waupaca.

WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Second Tue. - 8:00 p.m. - St. Peters Episcopal Church, 7929 Lincoln Ave. Entrance is at rear of building on alley.

THE WINNEBAGO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

(Formerly the Oshkosh Amateur Radio Club)

The Winnebago ARC welcomes all Amateurs and interested persons to join us at the Oshkosh Armory on Armory Place, Oshkosh, WI. Meetings are held the third Sunday each month at 1600 hrs. Talk in on 147.24 repeater.

For further information contact KB9IME, Dan Lenz, at (414) 233-7145.

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS

Meetings are held Quarterly, with time and location to be announced. Repeater licensees, trustees, and sponsors are urged to attend W.A.R. meetings. All interested parties are welcome, as well.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Third Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. in room 114 of the Wood County Court House. Talk-in on 146.79 for entry into the building.

WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION (WAUSAU)

First Tue. - 7:30 p.m. - Location varies; info on 146.04/64, Wausau.

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (BARABOO)

Meetings are usually the first Tuesday each month at the Baraboo Civic Center, Baraboo, WI. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. For any changes in the meeting dates and times see the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club section on page 15.

Let Badger State Smoke Signals know your club's meeting dates, and we will let our readers know of your meetings and activities. There may be Amateurs in your area interested in joining your club, or members of other clubs interested in making an interclub visit.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

The VE Test Session scheduled for Saturday morning, 12 September at the Red Cross building in Sheboygan has been canceled. The basement of the RC building was flooded on Wednesday night, 6 August, due to a 12" + rainfall in Sheboygan. The RC lost supplies that were stored in the basement. The SCARC radio equipment remained above the water level and was subsequently rescued. How long the clean-up will take is anyone's guess since right now it is more important to assist Sheboygan residents who sustained losses during this disaster.

The decision to cancel the 12 September test session was made by the VE Team Leader after seeing the horrendous mess in the basement of the RC building. Fortunately, all test materials were NOT in the club station room, but our cassette tape players were. The next previously announced scheduled session will be Wednesday evening, 18 November. We should be cleaned up by that date.

At the invitation of the Bay Lakes Council, Boy Scouts of America, the SCARC VE Team will conduct a test session on Saturday, 26 September, at the EAA Grounds in Oshkosh, WI for scouts attending the Scout Jamboree on that date. This test session is being conducted as a service to the Boy Scouts.

Art Pahr K9XJ
VE Team Leader
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club

September 05, 1998 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
September 05, 1998 Racine, WI
September 05, 1998 St. Paul, MN
September 10, 1998 Apple Valley, MN
September 12, 1998 Blaine, MN
September 12, 1998 Madison, WI
September 12, 1998 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
September 12, 1998 Onalaska, WI
September 15, 1998 Eden Prairie, MN
September 19, 1998 Appleton, WI
September 19, 1998 Cottage Grove, MN
September 19, 1998 Loves Park, IL
September 19, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
September 26, 1998 Oshkosh, WI
(see article above)
September 26, 1998 Bloomington, MN
September 26, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
September 26, 1998 Tomahawk, WI
October 03, 1998 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
October 03, 1998 Racine, WI
October 03, 1998 St. Paul, MN
October 03, 1998 Pewaukee WI
October 08, 1998 Apple Valley, MN
October 10, 1998 Blaine, MN
October 10, 1998 Eau Claire, WI
October 10, 1998 Madison, WI
October 10, 1998 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
October 17, 1998 Cottage Grove, MN
October 17, 1998 Loves Park, IL
October 17, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
October 20, 1998 Eden Prairie, MN
October 24, 1998 Bloomington, MN
October 31, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
October 31, 1998 Tomahawk, WI
November 01, 1998 Kaukauna, WI
November 07, 1998 Menomonie, WI
November 07, 1998 Onalaska, WI
November 07, 1998 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
November 07, 1998 Racine, WI
November 07, 1998 Pewaukee WI
November 07, 1998 St. Paul, MN
November 12, 1998 Apple Valley, MN
November 14, 1998 Blaine, MN
November 14, 1998 Madison, WI
November 14, 1998 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
November 17, 1998 Eden Prairie, MN
November 18, 1998 Sheboygan, WI
November 21, 1998 Cottage Grove, MN
November 21, 1998 Loves Park, IL
November 21, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
November 28, 1998 Bloomington, MN
November 28, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
November 28, 1998 Tomahawk, WI
December 05, 1998 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
December 05, 1998 Racine, WI
December 05, 1998 Pewaukee WI
December 05, 1998 St. Paul, MN
December 10, 1998 Apple Valley, MN
December 12, 1998 Blaine, MN
December 12, 1998 Madison, WI
December 12, 1998 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
December 15, 1998 Eden Prairie, MN
December 19, 1998 Cottage Grove, MN
December 19, 1998 Loves Park, IL

December 19, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
December 19, 1998 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
December 26, 1998 Bloomington, MN
January 23, 1999 Appleton, WI
January 16, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
February 20, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
March 20, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
April 15, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
Monthly, 1st Sat. Racine, WI
(except January, July & August)
Monthly, 1st Sat. Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI
Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN
Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Milwaukee, WI (BE)
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat. Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except December)
Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)
Quarterly Eau Claire, WI
(Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.)
plus annual summer hamfest.)

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

GENERAL RULES

FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32¢ SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.35 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.html>

By checking this page, a person can find out registered VE sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC, it is a master database. (Thanks to KB9EQI for information.)

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC)

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LAST SATURDAY - MILWAUKEE, WI

SECOND SATURDAY DATE: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wauwatosa Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27th St., Oak Creek, WI.

LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Note: For Additional Information: Call (414) 466-HAMS (Answering Machine).

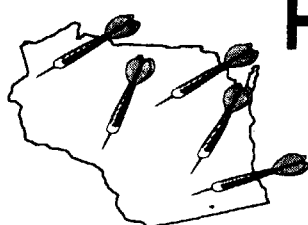
Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE (if any) and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.35 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

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Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, every third Saturday MORNING. Exam times are 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the old Sterman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$6.35, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbano, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

MADISON, WI
VE exams are held in Madison every second Saturday

(continued on page 15)



HERE and THERE

ARISS delegates discuss ham radio in space

Amateur Radio delegates representing seven of the eight countries involved in Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station (ARISS) met in England in late July to continue plans to establish the first permanent Amateur Radio presence in space. The session, chaired by Space Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) Working Group Chairman Roy Neal, K6DUE, was held July 29-31 in conjunction with the AMSAT-UK 1998 Colloquium, held at the University of Surrey.

On hand or patched in via a teleconferencing hookup were 16 representatives from the US, Japan, Italy, Germany, Canada, the UK, and Russia. The representative from France was unable to attend because of a prior commitment.

ARRL Educational Activities Department Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, represented the League and the SAREX Working Group. Observers at the sessions included AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan, W3XO; former US astronaut Ron Parise, WA4SIR; and RSGB President Ian Kyle, G8AYZ. IARU satellite frequency coordinators from Regions 1 and 3 also were on hand.

ARISS delegates formed two permanent working groups. The ARISS Hardware Group, chaired by Lou McFadin, W5DID--perhaps best known for his involvement in the Phase 3D project--is charged with designing and building space station equipment. The ARISS Administrative Group, chaired by Frank Bauer, KA3-HDO, is charged with setting up ground rules for operation, finding financing, and handling all other administrative details.

Bauer, who's NASA Vice President of Human Satellite Programs and a SAREX Working Group

member, said ham radio will be part of the ISS right from the start of construction. "What we're going to do is develop this in stages," he said. The first crew, aboard STS-88 at the end of this year, will have 2-meter handheld and packet capability coupled with an antenna system that will be a cooperative effort of the Italian and Russian teams. A three-person crew will attach the trusses and begin building the ISS.

The ISS service module, due to be launched next summer, is the section of the ISS in which astronauts and cosmonauts will live during construction. An interim station for the first ISS crew at that point would add 70-cm capability and a German-designed "digitalker," and eventually a transportable station that could include SSTV and full-duplex VHF/UHF. The first crews to actually live aboard the ISS will graduate to mobile-type transceivers.

Bauer says the final ISS equipment complement is still in the conceptual stages but likely would include all-mode capability from 10 meters up through 13 cm.

Surrey ARISS delegates also discussed time-sharing and scheduling of the ham stations, crew training, educational opportunities, fund-raising, call signs, and frequencies. Details on these issues remain to be decided.

Neal credited SAREX Working Group Principal Investigator Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL, for "a superb job of lining up the NASA/ISS officials and channels for what's about to happen." A key player on the ARISS team, Bordelon, is scheduled to travel to Russia soon to work out details of the station installation aboard the ISS service module with Sergej Samburov, RV3DR, the Russian delegate.

Neal said he was gratified to see the plans coming together to put Amateur Radio aboard the ISS. "These meetings have gotten the worldwide Amateur Radio meetings have gotten the worldwide Amateur Radio family on track," he said. "Amateur Radio is now getting ready to fly onboard!"

White said the most significant aspect of the session came on the afternoon of the second day, was when countries stepped forward to accept responsibility for various aspects of each Amateur Radio station. "For instance, for the interim Amateur Radio station, the US took responsibility for the packet module, adapter module, radio, and associated cables," she said. White said Germany agreed to build the digitalker, and to work with Russia to develop the antenna feed-through system.

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WA9JMO@WI.NET
(414) 639-7327
FAX (414) 639-3320

Itinerary and general information:

Craig Ochs, N9NLZ
CCOCHS@PITNET.NET
(414) 546-9892
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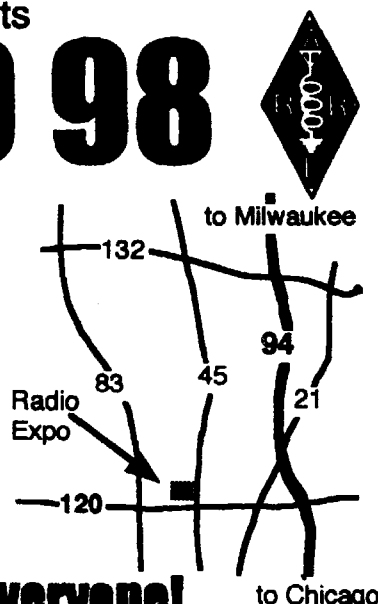
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Italy will design and fabricate the antennas, and Russia will install the RF cables and antennas.

For the transportable setup, the US will handle the packet TNC, equipment integration, and the NASA-required Safety Data Package, while Germany will design and build the system.

"The ARISS project will truly be an international project," said White. "It will be well worth our years of work, because each delegate believes ARISS is a wonderful resource for the Amateur Radio service and a great educational tool for our world's youth."

Russia said this month that it would meet its commitments to the ISS, despite its well-publicized economic problems. The ISS program is already a year behind because of delays related to Russia's money woes. In the US, NASA and White House budget officials have faced tough questioning about the space station project. The US share of the construction cost will be in excess of \$20 billion.

The ARRL Letter, 8/14/98

World Amateur Radio Day set for September 19

"Communicating Worldwide for Three Quarters of a Century" is the theme of this year's World Amateur Radio Day, set for September 19. The event marks the first two-way transoceanic Amateur Radio contact between French station 8AB and American stations 1XAM and 1MO on November 27, 1923.

The historic contacts ushered in the era of worldwide shortwave communication.

IARU Region One will broadcast a special program on shortwave that traces the early history of shortwave communication and the contributions hams have made to the development of radio science and the understanding of HF propagation.

The program will air to North America on September 19 at 2100 UTC on 15205 kHz.

For more information, contact Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS5AKV, e-mail hans@intekom.co.za.

The ARRL Letter, 8/7/98

No SAREX, but Walter is back!

While the Space Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) payload won't be aboard the shuttle flight that carries US Sen and astronaut John Glenn into space this fall, renowned former TV newsmen Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, will be back in the anchor chair for the historic flight.

Cronkite, who's 81 and retired from his long-held anchor position at CBS in 1981, will report on Glenn's return to space for CNN. Cronkite, who anchored Glenn's original 1962 space mission, will be joined at the anchor desk for the October 29 launch and November 7 landing by CNN's John Holliman. Cronkite also will contribute to coverage of Glenn's nine-day mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery.

Two hams--US Astronaut Scott Parazynski, KC5RSY, and European Space Agency astronaut Pedro Duque, KC5RGG, of Spain--will be among an international crew aboard STS-95. --thanks to ShopTalk

The ARRL Letter, 8/7/98

More New NOAA Radio sites

Here is the latest on the new Wisconsin NOAA Weather radio transmitters from Wisconsin Emergency Management and Wisconsin Educational Communications Board officials:

The US Department of Commerce has authorized the following frequencies, call signs and powers:

Bloomington, WWG 86, 1000 watts TPO
Fond du Lac, WWG 87, 1000 watts TPO
Orfordville, WWG 90, 200 watts TPO
Pleasant Ridge (Richland Co), WWG 89, 200 watts TPO
Sheboygan, WWG 91, 200 watts TPO
Crandon must be coordinated with the Canadians.
NWS has asked for permission to test at 162.450 at 150 watts TPO.

E-Mail address correction

In the list of Wisconsin hams' e-mail addresses printed in our August issue, the listing for Duane Olson, W9GGN, is incorrect. His listing should read:

Duane Olson
Amherst Jct., WI
olson+AEA-wi-net.com

We apologize for the error.

Ham Radio and the Circus: No phone calls, please!

It appears that many radio amateurs, with the best of intentions, are calling various people associated with the circus parade and the circus train asking that ham radio be restored to the train. This is causing harm.

Please don't call anyone with that request; the decision was made and it is final. Some of the people being called are volunteer workers, and that makes matters even worse.

The special event station, W 9 C, on the show grounds in Milwaukee, worked out very well, even though no advance publicity was given. (See front page).

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

The best guess now is that we'll have all equipment and should be ready for installation in 90 - 120 days. (NWS official).

Spectrum bill picks up more sponsors

During August, HR 3752, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, picked up seven new cosponsors. This brings the total to 64, plus the original sponsor Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida.

The August additions include Rep Frank R. Wolf, Virginia; Rep Linda Smith, Washington; Rep George Miller, California; Rep Max Sandlin, Texas; Rep Lynn Rivers, Michigan; Rep William Goodling, Pennsylvania; and Rep Anne Northup, Kentucky.

The ARRL's Legislative and Public Affairs Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA, returns to the Hill the first week of September to prepare for Congress' return from its "district work period" the following week.

The ARRL Letter, 8/21/98

BSSS Editor's note: Apparently, Rep. Scott Klug (2nd WI congressional district) is still the only Wisconsin co-sponsor. This bill would do much for Amateur Radio. Why is Rep. Klug the only Wisconsin co-sponsor? We have 11 congressmen and two senators.

16th AMSAT annual meeting and space symposium set

The registration form and agenda for this fall's AMSAT Annual Meeting and Space Symposium now are available on the Web at <http://pages.prodigy.com/DXHF93A>. The symposium, set for October 16-18, 1998, at the Battlefield Inn, Vicksburg, Mississippi, offers a diversity of amateur radio satellite presentations. Among those on the program are:

- The History of the Amateur Radio Satellite Program, by Martin Davidoff, K2UBC.
- Antarctica and Amateur Radio, by Ron Ross, KE6JAB
- Working Satellites From Over 100 Grid Squares, Chuck Duey, K10AG
- The Year 2000 Transition--Your PC and AMSAT Software, by Roy Welch, W0SL
- TRACKNET: An AMSAT Mobile Satellite System, by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR
- Development of Yet Another Housekeeping Unit for Phase 3D, by James Miller, G3RUH and associates

Ad space open

We have an ad space available on our back page. It is in the products and services section. There is no extra charge for the spot color, and the rate in that section is \$100.00 for 12 issues, payable in advance. If you'd like the space, call Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, at (608) 356-4031, write to 412½ Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913, or email smokesigs@baraboo.com.

- SETI on the Cheap: Affording the Ultimate DX, by Paul Shuch, N6TX
- An EZ-Sat Update, by Fred Winter, N2XOU and Ken Ernandes, N2WWD
- JAWSAT Update, by Randolph Kohlwey, N7SFI
- International Space Station Status, by Will Marchant, KC6RCL
- The P3D Spacecraft Thermal Design, Dick Jansson, WD4FAB and Keith Baker, KB1SF

Other activities planned during the symposium include sessions devoted to a Phase 3D update and an introduction to Amateur Radio satellites by QST Managing Editor and satellite buff Steve Ford, WB8IMY. The Friday evening beginner's session on Amateur Radio satellites will be open to the public. The Saturday banquet speaker will be ARRL Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

Following the Area Coordinators' breakfast Sunday morning, participants will take a field trip to the US Army Engineers Waterways Experiment Station where--among other things--they will learn about using satellites to track sea turtles.

Transportation is available between the Jackson International Airport and the Battlefield Inn in Vicksburg. The Jackson Amateur Radio Club will host an AMSAT Welcome Table at the Jackson International Airport on Thursday and Friday, October 15 and 16, to assist with transportation.

The early-bird registration deadline is September 15. For more information, contact, Eddie Pettis, N5JGK, e-mail n5jgk@amsat.org.

The ARRL Letter, 8/21/98

Morse Magazine gets new lease on life

The Morse magazine *Morsum Magnificat*, which had been on the verge of ceasing publication, has a new editor and publisher. Zyg Nilski, G3OKD, will take over the reins of the magazine following the publication of the December 1998 issue. The magazine's banner proclaims "Still flying the flag for Morse."

The magazine's current Consultant Editor, Tony Smith, G4FAI, said that subscriptions will be transferred to the new publisher. Nilski, 55, lives in England and has been a ham since 1960. His almost life-long interest in CW encompasses line telegraphy as well as the history of telegraphy and Morse technology.

Morsum Magnificat was first published in Dutch in 1983 by the late Rinus Hellemons, PA0BFN. A special English edition was put out in 1985. The following year, Smith--a writer specializing in Morse topics (and later chair of the European CW Association) joined the magazine as its English language editor. When Hellemons died in 1987, the Dutch edition ceased publication, and the magazine moved to England. Since 1990, Smith and Editor Geoff Arnold, G3GSR, have jointly produced the magazine.

The ARRL Letter, 8/21/98

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SEPTEMBER 1998

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(414) 284-9346
WB9RQR @ N9PBY.EN63BI.WI.USA.NA
SKAPLAN @ MCW.EDU



No. 58: The Y2K (Year 2000) Problem

Editor Jim Romelfanger (K9ZZ) of the Badger State Smokesignals asked that I address the Y2K problem for our ham readers. Let me start by relating that the problem isn't a large one for those of us who use home PCs - I promise your computer will not melt into a heap of molten metal when the century rolls over.

On the other hand, every business or governmental or educational or non-profit institution in the world that uses dates in any sort of calculation or accounting will have major problems. Many have not even started to tackle the problem, even though it is just over a year away. At your end, make sure you have paper copies of all your bank accounts, insurance accounts, investment accounts, and so on. The aim is to have proof of what belongs to you, should the Y2K calamity make the commercial world's records unavailable. Moreover, you should begin to accumulate those paper copies right now. If you wait until December 1999, the worldwide last minute rush is sure to prevent you from completing the process.

Now, on to the personal PC - the one you use for logging, writing letters, email, and maybe a little BASIC programming. What's the problem? What can you expect? First, some background. And as background to the background, I will now begin using the new, unambiguous date format that everyone, everywhere will soon be using -- YYYY-MM-DD, or 1998-10-14, for example. Note the 4-digit year. This format for date reporting is an international standard, though it hasn't been used much in the USA yet. Start using it now.

The core of the problem lies in the fact that most PC's hardware and software clocks (there are two - more about that later) do not keep track of centuries. That is, dates are recorded as 98-10-14, not 1998-10-14 (some programs, including DOS, ask you to type in the 19 but then promptly ignore the two numbers). Therefore, when the clock ticks into the next hour after 11:59 p.m. on 1999-12-31, your PC's date may suddenly become 00-01-01. DOS and many other programs do not understand the 00 as a valid date, and will convert it to 1980, the earliest date currently supported by Microsoft operating systems. Therefore, unless you have a "Y2K compliant" computer (most brand new ones are), the date in your machine will become 1980-01-01 on the 1st of January 2000.

What are the consequences? If your machine is not Y2K compliant (able to roll over to 2000-01-01 by themselves) but of relatively new vintage, you may be able to simply reset the system clock by hand after January 1st. If all goes well, your machine's operating system and DOS clock will be fine thereafter. This does not mean, however, that all your software is OK. If you are using a 1988 vintage version of a spreadsheet, the software may balk or show unpredictable results when you try to enter a date past the start of the new century. Indeed, it may provide you with space for only two digits for the year, as many do right now. What are you going to enter? 20? That's 1920, not what you intended. 00? That's 1900, or maybe 1980, depending upon how the software was written. See the problem? Not a big deal for a word processing program, since those dates are really just meaningless characters to the program, though they are certainly meaningful numbers to us humans. But if you use any program that takes actions (such as calculations) based on a date, it may not work or it may work unpredictably. Print hard copies of all your spreadsheets well before 2000-01-01!

Some older machines may well hide a double-whammy. Not only will they not roll over by themselves, but it also may not be possible to manually set the clock to the new

century. That is, you might be able to manually enter the date and time from DOS, and so long as the machine is powered it will keep the time and date nicely. However, all is lost when you turn it off or reboot. Once the machine goes through the boot process, the DOS time will likely be set back to 1980. Why?

Today's PCs have two independent clocks. The Hardware Clock (also known as the Real Time Clock) always runs, even when the machine is off. That's one of the reasons why your machine has a battery - to keep the little "wristwatch" in its belly going, even when unplugged. The Hardware Clock keeps track of the time and date, but only two digits of the date. Not centuries. No one really knows why. Most of us guess that some programmer from the 1970s wanted to save a little space, and figured his grandchildren could deal with the problem at the end of the century.

The other clock is the Software Clock (also called the System Clock or Virtual Clock). It is on only when the computer is powered up, and "goes away" when you turn the switch off, just like that letter you were typing and forgot to save before powering down. The Software Clock is just a 24-hour timer, much like the battery operated timer you probably have in your kitchen. However, unlike your kitchen timer, the Software Clock doesn't keep time in hours, minutes or seconds. At bootup, its counter value is set based on the Hardware Clock. It then starts counting up, 18.2 times per second. When the counter reaches 1,572,480 (the 24-hour value), it starts over again at one.

When you turn on your machine, the Operating System (OS: DOS 6.22 if you are using DOS or Windows 3.xx, DOS 7 if you are using Windows 95) is responsible for managing the time and date for you. It does this by first asking the BIOS (Basic In/Out System) to tell it the date. The BIOS asks the Hardware Clock for this information and then passes the answer on to the OS. The BIOS assumes the years 1900 to 1979 cannot occur, and if given 00 to 79 by the Hardware Clock, it will pass an invalid year on to the OS. The OS will likely then assume 1980. This error does not occur in machines with newer BIOS chips, since they are programmed to also track the century.

Now that the Operating System has the date, it can get the time from the Software Clock. The OS gets the counter value and converts that into hours, minutes and seconds. When the counter value has reached the 24-hour value noted above, the OS rolls the date over by one.

Sound complicated? You bet! At least it seems that way to me. Why two independent clocks are necessary is beyond me. Leaving out the century digits seems like the work of a lid programmer. Oh well, maybe now that computers are starting to design computers (they have been for some years, you know), things will improve. As for now, here is what you must do.

If you are going to purchase a computer, make sure the vendor states in writing that all hardware and firmware (the BIOS chips) are guaranteed to be fully Y2K compliant. Make sure that any spreadsheets or other date sensitive software packages you buy also guarantee Y2K compliance AND they are designed to use the new, internationally accepted, ISO 8601 date format that I have used in this issue. If you are not going to buy a new computer, don't forget to set the Hardware Clock's date and time on 2000-01-01. Thereafter, if the year returns to 1980 every time you boot up, realize that any file you create will be date stamped incorrectly. Some of us remember this happening constantly with older XT's, if we forgot to set the date and time on bootup. Also be aware that software that uses dates in calculations of any kind may be inaccurate if it is not Y2K compliant.

Want more information? It is already a hot topic. Just go surfing on the web for Y2K. Alta Vista came back with over 210,000 Y2K hits on 1998-07-27! There are also several decent programs out there, free for the asking, that will test your machine for Y2K compliance.

You see, it is not so bad a problem with our personal PCs. You can live with it. Maybe you don't even have a problem. On the other hand, your bank statement .. that's a problem of a different order of magnitude!

Next month's column will be by guest writer Jeff Kane, KB9QQE. Jeff will provide you with a comprehensive and foolproof method for detecting Y2K problems with your computer. As an added bonus, his method will also find problems with VCRs, clocks and other programmable consumer electronic devices. Happy computing!

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Wisconsin QCWA Chapter 55 meets

By Chapter Reporter Les Peterson, W9YCV

On Saturday, June 6 WI Chapter 55 members and guests gathered at Fin and Feather in Winneconne, WI for the spring dinner meeting. Forty-two made the trip from around Wisconsin on this beautiful spring day to attend the meeting. During the registration and attitude adjustment period, many personal QSOs took place in an area where one could view boaters leaving the docks for trips on the Wolf River.

Chairman Verne Teske, W9RYA, started the meeting with a greeting followed by a moment of silence for the latest Silent Key members: Alvin Hogden (W9FIO), James Douglas (W9DR), Erwin Peters (W9DOW), Frank Guth (W9BCC), and those who preceded them. Remembered too in this moment were those unable to attend due to illness or physical limitations. Verne then gave the invocation after which each table had its turn to visit the wonderful buffet offering. Again, the view of the Wolf River and the boating activities from the dining area was great.

Following dinner, we all enjoyed Rick Elsener's (W9RCW) presentation on Criminalistics and Lie Detection Techniques. He told us some of his experiences in this field during his many years in law enforcement. Then Chairman Verne presented Fred Linn (W9NZF) with a QCWA Gold Certificate for 65 years. Exchange of door prizes came next. Those who had brought a prize got the chance to select one from the table.

At the break before the Chapter business meeting, the ladies departed for a tour of a Doll Museum. During the business meeting Secretary Herb Roehner (WA9UVK) read the minutes of the October 1997 meeting, and Treasurer Erv Froehlich (W9RZW) gave his report. There were no old business items. New business items were: Selection of an audit committee, a nominating committee and the picking of a location for the October 1998 meeting. A place in the Watertown area is being considered on the first Saturday in October.

This time the men had the opportunity for more eyeball QSOs while waiting for the ladies to return from their tour. It was then time to head for home.

As a side note, the writer rode with Friends John Zach (K9IAC) and his wife Carol. En route home I had the opportunity to operate John's fine mobile station. I made some



Chapter 55 Chairman Verne Teske, W9RYA (right) presents Fred Linn, W9NZF, with his QCWA Gold Certificate for 65 years as a radio amateur.

Photo by Les Peterson/W9YCV

enjoyable contacts on 20 meter SSB with stations in Saint Maarten (Caribbean area), one with a special event station in Tyler, MS and another station in Miami, FL. □

THANK YOU: My thanks to Bob, K9KJT, Les, W9YCV, and members of the West Allis Radio Amateur Club for setting up and operating W 9 C at my request and on very short notice. Special thanks to Keri Olson and Dale Williams of Circus World Museum for their encouragement and help in getting the station going. It's hoped this can be done next year so advance notice can be published internationally. It brings great PR to circus, the CWM, the Great Circus Parade, and the Great Circus Train. I am proud and pleased with the way this operation worked. Thanks to all. - K9ZZ

WISCONSIN 9 CIRCUS

Continued from front page



At the W 9 C operating position here are Grace Peterson, wife of Les, W9YCV; Rich Regent, K9GDF; and Barb Regent, N9DIJ.

Photo by Les Peterson/W9YCV

note about the tent. He looked at a small depression in the ground and shook his head back and forth. When I next stepped out of our tent to stretch my legs the hole was filled perfectly level with ground. Who was that clown anyway?

Many of the SSB operators we talk to make a remark about the elephants. We are far from the elephants and did not bring a shovel and bucket, so we skip their advice. To the kiddie I would describe "King Tusk", the Asian elephant who is 10 feet tall and weighs 11,762 pounds. At one meal King can eat 120 apples, 50 pounds of carrots and 6 watermelons. Then I quickly move on to new contacts before anyone can think of more elephant jokes.

Some operators with which we QSO are anxious to say they had seen the Great Circus Parade, one OM asked to relay "Hello" to Buffalo Bill. W9C operators work 258 stations in most of the states and Canada; like a camper near Durango, Colorado and an XYL in New Mexico, both on CW. I work K1ZZ, Dave Sumner Executive Vice President of the ARRL on CW. Just by chance Roy, K9FHI and our Wisconsin ARRL Section Manager, responds to my CQ on 40 SSB and sends his regards to the gang. He says he recognizes my voice and is happy to work W9C. Later on 20-meter CW I QSO with stations in Russia, Germany, Belgium, Romania and Puerto Rico. During the four days other operators kept W9C radio active: W9GSV, KA9WXN, AA9RK, N9DIJ, N9OEH, WA9AXQ, N9FEW and WB9YCS.

Elsewhere at the Circus kids and visitors are trying to juggle, walk a tight rope, balance on a rolling globe, and swing on a trapeze, all outfitted for safety of course. With as much enthusiasm, operators installed and operated radio equipment at W9C. The folks at W9C not only worked hard, promoting Amateur Radio to people passing by the tent, but also enjoyed sharing the thrills of the Great Circus with other Amateurs around the world. □

Boerner Is On The Air

by Richard R. Regent, K9GDF

Boerner Botanical Gardens is located within Milwaukee County's Whitnall Park in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. The 120 acre Botanical Gardens, where plants are displayed in collections and are professionally labeled and evaluated, is surrounded by a 1,000 acre Arboretum. This year's Boerner In Bloom festivities from June 13 through 21, included music, garden seminars, walks and Amateur Radio!

On Father's Day of the event week I was walking through the annual garden when I heard morse code coming from behind some purple fountain grass, orange-red begonias and yellow African impatiens. As I copy the CW QSO in my head, I try to find the source of the sound.

Aha, here it is. It is coming from the large wooden Gazebo in the shade just southeast of the fountain. Apparently there is more here than just viewing the colorful flowers on a sunny day. Two QRP battery-powered amateur radio stations are being operated by friendly folks. One transceiver uses a 20-meter vertical and another MFJ setup has a 40- and 30- meter slinky antenna. The slinky is raised and supported by several 1x2 pieces of wood. The operator tunes the slinky by pulling or slacking a rope connected to it. Operators, N0OKS, WA9AWJ, WB9PTC, AA9GC and KB9GBL, volunteer their time to enjoy CW on a straight key or bug. They work Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi and West Virginia while I visit.

Many dads stop by the stations to learn about the hobby, read the displays and ask questions. They also might be thinking about some amateur radio gear for a Father's Day present? Kids watch the sending and receiving. This is the second year for promotion of amateur radio at Boerner and this type of setup and operation provides great practice for Field Day the following weekend. Plans are already underway for next year's operation at Boerner.

Earlier in the festival week at the Rose Garden there are two ladies playing clarinet duets. I'm a clarinetist, so I always like listening to them. It looks like rain and everyone could hear the thunder. Between tunes, one of the clarinetists takes out a 2-meter handheld from her purse and listens to the 146.67 MHz weather net for a half minute. She explains to the audience what she is doing and reassures us that the rain storm would probably miss us. I am surprised but pleased that amateur radio is being used here, too. Later I discovered that the clarinetist, who I often heard play music, is also a ham, KA9QCE.

Looks like amateur radio is alive and *blooming*!

FCC proposes ham rules changes

Continued from front page

whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method.

In a related issue, the FCC also seeks comments on how to deal with potential abuses of the current disability waiver for higher-speed Morse code tests. In RM-9196, the ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before examination credit could be given. The League also asked that VECs have access to relevant medical information from the certifying physician. The FCC said the ARRL's proposal would place "an unfair burden on examinees" and raised serious privacy and confidentiality issues.

The FCC went along with an ARRL petition and proposed allowing Advanced class hams to be eligible to prepare and administer license examinations up through General class under the VE program. The Commission said the change would permit greater testing opportunities for hams. The FCC also invited comments on whether it should change written examination requirements "to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations."

Referring to yet another ARRL petition, RM-9150, the FCC invited comments on how it can improve its Amateur Radio enforcement processes. The FCC applauded the ARRL "for its creative thinking" in that petition, but said the specific proposal was "inconsistent" with the current statutory role of administrative law judges. The FCC raised the possibility of encouraging complainants to include a draft order "to show cause to initiate a revocation or cease and

desist hearing proceeding." The FCC said it also wants to hear how it can better use the services of the Amateur Auxiliary in beefing up enforcement.

The FCC proposed to phase out Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, or RACES, stations by not renewing their licenses. No new RACES licenses have been issued since 1980, and only 249 valid licenses remain. The FCC said RACES stations no longer are needed because any amateur station that has been properly registered with a civil defense organization has the same privileges as a RACES station.

The FCC also took the occasion to clarify the definition of "power" as used in the RF exposure table in Section 97.13(c)(1). The FCC said it refers to peak envelope power (PEP) input to the antenna. It also made clear that no one holding an FCC-issued ham ticket may apply for a reciprocal permit for alien amateur license.

The FCC set a longer-than-normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC will accept electronic comments via the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>.

A copy of the complete NPRM will be posted on the ARRL Web page, <http://www.arrl.org>, as soon as it is available.

The FCC NPRM can be downloaded from the FCC Web site in Word Perfect 5.1 and text versions as:

<http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.wp> -or-

<http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.txt>

respectively.

Thanks ARRL

41st Jamboree-on-the-Air

What is Jamboree-on-the-Air?

The Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is annual Scouting and Amateur Radio event, sponsored by the World Scout Bureau of the World Organization of the Scout movement. Thousands of Amateur Radio stations around the world participate. If the conditions are right, it is common to contact a hundred Scouting countries during a weekend.

In the United States, Cub Scout dens or Boy Scout patrols visit a local amateur's ham shack during the JOTA. Many districts and councils hold events that coincide with the JOTA, where amateurs set up stations giving Scouts and leaders a chance to exchange greetings with Scouts from other areas.

The exchanges typically include information such as:

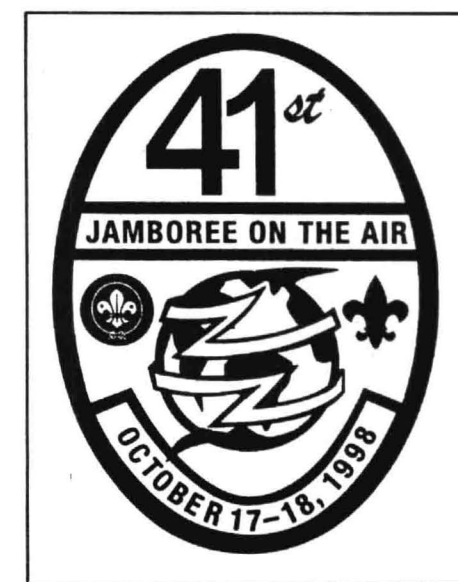
- Name
- Location (QTH)
- Scout rank
- Hobbies
- Age

Some exchanges lead to long-lasting pen pal friendships and the exchange of photos, badges, pins, and patches.

The usual communications method calls for speaking into a microphone. However, the following specialized communications methods are also used:

- Slow Scan TV, or SSTV
- Amateur TV, or ATV
- Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio, or OSCAR
- Packet radio, or modem communication without a phone
- Radio Teletype, or RTTY
- Earth-Moon-Earth, or EME, contacts

There will be many stations operating, including the following:



- K2BSA/5 at Camp Wisdom in Dallas, Texas
 - Additional K2BSA stations assigned to other areas, such as K2BSA/0
 - HB9S, the World Scout Bureau headquarters in Switzerland
 - GB2GP at Gilwell Park, England
- Listen for many other special call signs from many countries.

Who?

The JOTA welcomes participation by Scouting and Amateur Radio enthusiasts of all ages.

- Cub Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Explorers
- Girl Scouts
- Scouters
- Former Scouts and Scouters
- Amateur Radio operators

Continued on page 8

JOTA

Continued from page 7

- Anyone interested in doing a good turn for Scouting and Amateur Radio.

When?

The JOTA begins on Saturday, October 17, 1998, at 0001 hours local time, and ends on Sunday, October 18, at 2359 hours local time.

The JOTA program always falls on the third full weekend in October.

Where?

JOTA Scout Frequencies

Band	SSB (phone)	CW (Morse code)
80	3.740* and 3.940	3.590
40	7.090* and 7.290	7.030
20	14.290	14.070
17	18.140	18.08
15	21.360	21.140
12	24.960	24.910
10	28.990 and 28.350**	28.190

*Not authorized to transmit in the United States (Region 2); however, you may listen

** For United States, to allow Novices to participate in the JOTA on phone.

How

Scouts and leaders should follow any of the following tips for help in preparing for participation in the JOTA program:

- Contact a local Amateur Radio operator.
- Contact a local Amateur Radio club.
- Put a notice in the local newspaper.
- Run an article in the local council newsletter; almost every local council has a Scouter involved in Amateur Radio.
- Contact the American Radio Relay League's Educational Activities Department toll-free at (800) 326-3942.

Radio amateurs should

- Invite Scouts and Scout units to their shack. Radio amateurs who do not know any units should contact the nearest BSA local council service center for the names of Scout unit leaders in the area. Local councils can be found

in the phone book under "Boy Scouts of America".

- Volunteer to set up a station at a district or council camporee, Scout show, or other event. Contact the nearest BSA local council service center for more information..
- Call "CQ Jamboree" or respond to such calls.

What is or is not required

- No reports in the form of logs are necessary. This is not a contest.
- Make the exchange of information simple, related to Scouting and Amateur Radio.
- Brief reports are requested. The report should include: Unit number and local council name and number; Amateur call used, Calls heard and worked; Number of participants; Interesting incidents and exchanges, etc.; Photos with captions.

Send reports and photos to the JOTA coordinator at the address below, no later than November 30, 1998. These reports will be used to prepare a United States report that is sent to the World Scout Bureau.

Certificate cards

Postcard-sized certificates are free and are available to anyone participating in any way. They may be ordered beforehand for presentation during the JOTA, or they may be awarded at Scouting or Amateur Radio club meetings later. Send requests to Jamboree-on-the-Air Certificate cards, S221, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079, with a self-addressed and stamped envelope large enough to hold the cards ordered. All orders must be received by December 31 of the year for which the certificates are ordered.

Postage Guidelines

Number of certificates	Postage	Envelope size
1-8	\$.32	#10
9-16	.55	#10
17-24	.78	6"x9"
25-32	1.01	6"x9"

Please add 23 cents postage for each additional 8 certificates.

Requests cannot be filled without proper postage. Any request that is received without proper postage will be returned.

Information courtesy Dave Barquist, K9PAK

FCC SEQUENTIAL CALLSIGN UPDATE

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of August 3, 1998. For more information about the sequential call sign system, see Fact Sheet PR5000 #206S or contact the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245; e-mail fccitd@fcc.gov.

District	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0HV	KI0NX	++	KC0DYE
1	AA1TY	KE1KE	++	KB1DCI
2	AB2FN	KG2OU	++	KC2DXK
3	AA3RJ	KF3BY	++	KB3CXK
4	AF4LD	KU4TV	++	KF4ZOT
5	AC5QY	KM5RZ	++	KD5EXT
6	AD6GD	KQ6XK	++	KF6SFS
7	AB7YR	KK7PA	++	KD7CKW
8	AB8DB	KI8GM	++	KC8KSH
9	AA9WJ	KG9OD	++	KB9TFG
N. Mariana Is	NH0F	AH0BA	KH0HE	WH0ABJ
Guam	++	AH2DH	KH2TQ	WH2ANX
Hawaii	NH7I	AH6PM	KH7JZ	WH6DEU
American Samoa	AH8R	AH8AH	KH8DM	WH8ABF
Alaska	AL0M	AL7RE	KL0PT	WL7CUW
Virgin Islands	++	KP2CN	NP2KD	WP2AIJ
Puerto Rico	NP3Y	KP3BI	NP3XZ	WP4NNV

++ All call signs in this group have been issued in this district.

Wisconsin hams reactivate flooded station to assist Red Cross



This home, belonging to an 80-year-old resident, was collapsed to the ground by the force of the flood.

Heavy rainfall August 6 caused severe flooding in southeastern Wisconsin. Four counties, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Waukesha and Rock, were declared disaster areas. The floods put dozens of people out of their homes and shut down some roadways and bridges. A SKYWARN net was activated for the southeastern part of the state.

ARRL Emergency Coordinator Mike Musiel, K9SJ, of Cleveland, Wisconsin, says the floodwaters inundated the basement of the local Red Cross headquarters where the Sheboygan County ARC and ARES radio room was located. "As soon as the waters were safe, Larry Bahr, WB9FXQ, and I went in Thursday night (August 6) and recovered what equipment we could," he reports. Musiel said the radios could be salvaged, but the shack itself was totally out of commission.

Musiel says he and Rob Jacobson, KB9AFT, contacted the Sheboygan Red Cross and prepared to regroup. "Unfortunately, most of the Red Cross relief supplies were also in the basement," he said. He says he made up cables for the temporary station and, with help from Jacobson and Sky Borgenbagen, N9XRU, set up the temporary station at the Red Cross to assist the damage assessment teams in the field.

"I can not begin to describe the amount of loss thousands of people have lived through," he said.

The Red Cross damage assessment teams needed to canvass large areas of the city quickly, Musiel explained. "Hams tailed the damage assessment teams to handle questions from local residents. Most of the affected areas had no power, gas, or phone service," he said. Hams were able to get messages directly to Red Cross headquarters and respond to residents in a timely fashion, however. Musiel says he had a cell phone along, but the local cells were saturated with traffic. The hams were able to set up a mobile transceiver in crossband repeat mode so they could use H-Ts on low power and extend their battery life.

Musiel said the N9REH VHF machine in Sheboygan was out of service. Most traffic went through the AC9A UHF machine in Sheboygan, and the WE9R SCARC club VHF repeater in Plymouth.

Musiel said he was not certain how much longer ham radio help would be needed. "A number of hams were in the badly affected areas. I know some of them took heavy damage," he said. Additional volunteers arrived last weekend, he said. Among hams that assisted were KB9AFT, N9XRU, K9XJ, AA9LV, KD9TZ, KB9QPM, N9SVV, WB9FXQ, KB9GHE, K9JHK, KF9XZ, and K9SJ.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton toured Wisconsin's Rock County on August 12 and announced the availability of federal aid for the four affected counties.

The ARRL Letter, 8/14/98



Here is an uprooted tree, another victim of nature's wrath. When nature wants her way, she gets it.

Photos courtesy of Jerry Klabunde, K9JHK

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

MEETING MINUTES August 5, 1998

Meeting was called to order by N9SDI, members present were: N9NMH, N9IAB, N9TTA, N9MEA, KB9RXA, KB9DED, K9JXW, KB9FRB, KB9DZG, W9VHA, KB9SBT, W9WW, N9PHC, K9QM, and N9SDL. Minutes (published in BSSS) Approved: N9NMH and N9MEA

Treasurer's report approved: N9IAB and N9NMH.

Upcoming events:

Gear Grinder Bike Race - Sept. 13. Will be looking for about 15 hams to provide communications. If you can help out, please contact Jim, N9SDI.

BSA Fall Camporee October 9-11. Jack, N9LIA, is getting the specifics of what will be available for shelter, etc., for us to set up and demonstrate ham radio.

Old Business

Status of 6M repeater - (Mark, N9MEA) Everything all set, got the antenna from WX9W; still need some brackets for mounting to tower.

Field Day, June 27-28: Thanks to participants as we operated for all of the 24 hour period, except for a couple of hours when we watched the lightning. We made 425 contacts on 4 bands.

Our Special Service Club presentation

will be at the September 1 club meeting. Forward Electronics donated two desk mikes to the club for use with the club radios.

New Business

Club auction at the October meeting will be held if we can determine if there will be enough stuff to auction off. Please get your list of items to one of the board members or bring it to the club meeting in September, as this will determine if we have it or not.

Thanks to the following for helping out at the Biathlon: W9WW, N9SDL, KB9KSS, N9IAB, KB9DED, KB9FRB, KB9DZG, N9LIA, N9TTA, and N9SDI.

Thanks to Don, W9WW, for sharing the ARRL's proposal for US License Classes with us.

Upcoming Programs

September 1 meeting: Traffic Handling by K9UTQ.

Adjournment: KB9RXA/KB9DZG.

The program was HF Antennas, presented by Jim, K9JXW, and was very informative. Thanks to Jim for taking time to share his experiences with us.

Respectfully submitted:
Kim Kunze, N9SDL

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Art Evans, KA9KLZ, Secretary

213 N. Jefferson • Cuba City WI 53807-1558

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CDT	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1200	0700	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1800	1300	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2330	1830	K9UTQ
WNN	Yes	3723	0000	1700	KB9OCZ
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1930	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	2000	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2300	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61 (Mondays CDT)	0030 (Menomonie Area)	1930	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12 (Green Bay Area)	0245	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0200	2100	
RACES	No	3993.5 (LSB Sunday)	1400	0900	WA9OAY

July Traffic Report

July brought a slight increase in both net participation and traffic. With all seven nets reporting, 3237 stations passed 2090 messages during the month. BWN/1749, BEN/75, WSBN/71, WNN/22, WSSN/27, WIN-E/103, and WIN-L/43.

Nine stations had traffic totals in excess of 100, five of whom made Brass Pounders League. The stations are: K9JPS/900 (BPL), K9GU/859 (BPL), K9RTB/643 (BPL), W9CBE/522 (BPL), WB9JSW/514 (BPL), WB9YPY/358, W9RCW/145, N9KHD/139, and AG9-G/103.

Twenty-eight stations submitted Station Activity Reports, and twelve stations submitted Public Service Honor Roll Reports.

Rick, W9RCW, BSN N/M, and Gus, W9IHW, BWN delegate have been having medical problems and we wish them a speedy recovery. Lew, K9JPS, BSN delegate, is scheduled for hip replacement during August and we wish him the best. Does it seem that the BWN is a little tough

on people?

I mail my reports to League Headquarters on the 7th of the month. That makes the deadline for reports the 6th. I can accept reports until I start printing them up for mailing. If you can catch me on the BWN on the morning of the 7th all would be well.

Hale Blakely, W9CBE, Asst. STM will also accept reports and forward them to me. Hale covers most of the CW and SSB nets so there is someone on almost every net to take reports.

Reports can also be sent via packet or e-mail.

My packet address is:
KA9KLZ @ KC9KQ.WI.USA.NOAM
My e-mail address is:
aevans@mhct.net

Thanks to all stations who participate in the Wisconsin nets. You are the nets and Wisconsin nets are the best. 73.

Arthur A. Evans, KA9KLZ
Wisconsin Section
Traffic Manager



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Steve Eisold, AA9SJ, Secretary

2220 N. 20th Street • Sheboygan WI 53083

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

The August meeting of the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Sky, N9XRU, at 7:15pm local time. There were 9 members present at the meeting. The SCARC meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building, 2032 Erie Ave., Sheboygan.

Due to the water damage caused by the heavy rains at the Red Cross building last Thursday, August 6, the meeting was moved to the K.W. Muth conference room. All radio and computer equipment was removed before any water damage was incurred by Mike, K9SJ, and Larry, WB9FXQ. Unfortunately much of the paper documentation was damaged. Our thanks to all the hams who helped the local Red Cross during the damage control assessment.

Beginning September 7th, Monday night nets will begin at 8 p.m. local time. Hopefully this will allow more people to check in. We are looking for more volunteers to run the Monday nets, there is a simple printed dialogue to follow. Also the R.A.I.N. report will be re-transmitted either before or after the nets beginning about the same week in September.

A Holland Fest report was given by Steve, N9TRK. Four local hams were involved with staging parade units, and parking cars at the annual Cedar Grove event. Our thanks again to Steve, N9TRK; Penny, N9TCF; Lyle, WE9R; and Larry,

WB9FXQ.

15-18 years ago there was a CW activity award given out each month in the club. It was brought up by one member to again start this practice.

Each month logs would be checked for most CW contacts. The winning operator would have his name put on a plaque which will travel from station to station. At the end of the year the operator with the most contacts will receive a trophy to keep. There was some discussion and will be reconsidered at the next meeting.

We are still looking for a person to accept the position of President. Any member in good standing can run.

Anybody who was involved with the last Fox Hunt should check if they have the "fox" at their station. Joe, N9REH, mentioned he has not seen it for quite some time.

VE testing has been canceled for next month, September, due to the water damage at the Red Cross building.

Mike, K9SJ, gave a demonstration on attaching coax connectors. Mike showed a new technique of "tinning" the shield before installing the connector. This made for easy soldering later when connecting the shield to the connector.

September 12 is the Old Plank Trail Health Classic. We are still looking for help.

Continued on page 11

The Racine Megacycle Club

Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI

Mary Urban, N9ZWE, Secretary

c/o RMC • P.O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 54301-0003

e-mail: w9udu@wi.net • Web: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>

Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC

ARRL Affiliated

Providing communications for
American Red Cross and ARES



MEETING MINUTES July 13, 1998

The July 13, 1998 regular membership meeting of the Racine Megacycle Club opened at 7:36 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building. President Rees Roberts, K9UUT, and Secretary Mary Urban, N9ZWE, were present.

Secretary Mary, N9ZWE, read the minutes of the June 8, 1998 SPECIAL and REGULAR meetings. Bob, W0WLN, made a motion to accept the minutes as read.

Due to the absence of Treasurer Dave, AA9HL, the reading of the treasurer's report was dispensed with until he arrived.

Mary, N9ZWE, gave a History Committee Report. Norman Mears, W9YNB, became a Silent Key on June 16. She

questioned whether Gerald Sommers, W9IXY, another Silent Key, had ever been a member of our club.

She has received the Field Day logs for 1996, 1997, and 1998, and has finished putting them into log books.

Mary, N9ZWE, requested that if you change your e-mail address, please let her know immediately. One rejected address prevented an entire club mailing from being sent.

Education Committee Chairman Larry, WA9JMO, is still looking for instructors. Details still have to be worked out regarding future classes. He is in the process of setting up a class to be held at the Explorer's Post in Kenosha.

Hamfest Committee Chairman Rob,

Continued on page 11

Racine Megacycle Club

Continued from page 10

KF9ZT, reported that final preparations are being made for the club's show on July 26, 1998. He is looking for additional volunteers to help at the show. There will be a testing team and no vendor tally is available. There are advance tickets, but none available at this time.

Dan, KA9OIL, reported that the next Fox Hunt will be Friday, July 17, from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. It will begin at Regency Mall.

Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 10

Our thanks to Mike, K9SJ, for the refreshments and his boss, Mr. Muth, of K.W. Muth for allowing us to use his conference area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Just a reminder, if you use e-mail, consider signing up to the Sheboygan hams mailing list. Just submit your e-mail address to:
julian@bongo.tele.com.

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



Our picnic was delightful; wonderful weather, great food, and special friends. We had hoped that two of our long distance members, Ed (WA9Y) and Cecilia Westberg from Florida, and Art (W9VSO) and Terry (Squeaks, N9VKF) Vahovius from Alabama would be able to share the day with us. But it was not to be; hopefully their Wisconsin pilgrimage next year will coincide with our annual meal in the sun.

Speaking of "Squeaks" Vahovius, I and the Chapter extend our most cordial congratulations on her up grade to EXTRA CLASS. Great job, Squeaks!!

Before the picnic concluded, President Spencer Clope, W9LDH, convened a short meeting. Our board member and Vice-President George (K9AAL) and Suzy Pagels moved out of state earlier this year and the position required a replacement. The membership elected Ken Knoff, N9NBC to the board and the board asked Ken to fill the un-expired VP term. He accepted. President Spence also appointed a nominating committee with Ed Konicek, W9NVK, Chair, Al Algiers, W9HR and Ken Knoff as a team to gather a slate of candidates for our Annual Meeting Board election in October.

Our next business meeting will be at the Meadows Restaurant in Franksville on Monday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. Prez Spence tells me there is a lot of business to be covered and urges all the members to attend.

Our club is the proud owner of a 50-foot tower, donated from Rev. Jim McChesney, WA0PFV, to Lloyd Gorsiski, WB9RGO, who in turn gave it to our Chapter. Watch out World! Our QRP

Bob, W9EH, gave a Field Day report.

OLD BUSINESS

President Rees, K9UUT, announced that the board has decided to delay the pursuit of the 501(c)(3) tax status until further notice. A discussion followed as to what lead up to this decision.

Larry, WA9JMO, announced that the ham banquet is scheduled for September 26 at Charcoal Grill.

Greg, KB9RMA, made a motion to close the meeting at 8:53 p.m. It was seconded and approved.

Following the meeting, a program on DX was given by Dave, KC9NG. □

E-mail sent to:

shebham@tele.com will be forwarded to all listed subscribers. Thanks again to N6ARE for providing the mail server for SCARC and ARES use.

Net schedules

7 p.m. Monday nights, SCARC Fun Net, 147.06 PL 107.2, +.

Traders Net - Following the Monday night net on the first Monday of each month.

Respectfully submitted:
Steve Eisold, AA9SJ

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

249 Georgia Street North • Stevens Point WI 54481-1040

MEETING MINUTES August 12, 1998

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:30 p.m. by President Mike Pagel, K9UW.

The first item on the agenda was a program presented by Mary Eiden, KA9FAS. Mary demonstrated how to create your own web page. Question and answer period followed. Good job, Mary!

The financial report presented by Treasurer Joe Larson, N9JW, was approved as read.

Motion by Jan Rydberg, KB9RUJ, and second by Art Wysocki, N9BCA, to accept the June meeting minutes was approved. (No meeting was held in July)

Correspondence from the family of the late Frank Guth, W9BCC, was read by the secretary.

Al Mallek, K9WVM, gave a report on the success of the recent Field Day. He wishes to especially thank Art Wysocki, N9BCA, and Mike Peters, W9CO, for their untiring help with setting up the station and operating. Art Wysocki was generous to let us use his facilities for this event.

Thanks go to Lucy Wysocki and Nancy Mallek for their preparation and serving of the delicious food during Field Day.

The family of the late Frank Guth, W9BCC, has donated Frank's ham radio equipment to the UWSP Foundation which will in time sell this, and other items the family will donate, and place the funds in a trust. The income earned will then be available to the club for educational purposes. This has not been finalized as of this writing.

The club thanks Steve Kopstein, WA9-LHI, for donating a large cache of electronic components which will prove very useful.

After a lengthy discussion members approved that any club member be able to

activate or disable weather alert on the local repeater. A motion by Al Mallek, K9WVM, and a second by Wayne Johnson, K9MIF, to reconfigure the phone patch and autodial codes was unanimously approved.

A motion by Mike Peters, W9CO, and second by Robert Baird, W9NN, to reject an offer by an individual to buy a club-owned 2 meter antenna was approved.

Joe Larson, N9JW, informs us that he is not a candidate for treasurer, but he will continue to teach classes as in the past.

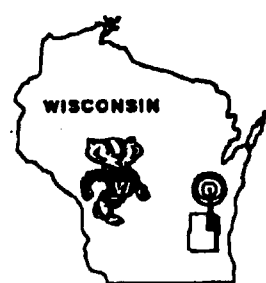
Next meeting September 9, 1998, UWSP Science Building. Election of officers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 with motion by Al Mallek, K9WVM, and second by Mary Eiden, KA9FAS.

Respectfully submitted:
Al Mallek N9WBS, secretary

Attendance

Mary Eiden	KA9FAS
Mike Eiden	WD9JID
Duane Olson	W9GGN
Al Mallek	K9WVM
Dick Drew	K9PJB
Doc Rifleman	WA9N
Ron Howe	NJ9H
Bob Baird	W9NN
Bruce Walter	W9QAH
Wayne Johnson	K9MIF
Betty Johnson	WD9AUC
Arthur Wysocki	N9BCA
Joe Larson	N9JW
Jan Rydberg	KB9RUJ
David Tamres	KB9IIF
Mike Pagel	K9UW
Kathy Mallon	KG9NX
Joe Omernik	N9CGV
Mike Peters	W9CO
Paul Clasen	
Steve Clasen	
Al Mallek	N9WBS



Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW,
Secretary
465 Elder Lane
Allenton, WI 53002-9799



Club Repeater: 146.73 MHz

<http://www.nconnect.net/~WCARC>

MEETING MINUTES August 13, 1998

The August 13, 1998 meeting of the Washington County ARC was called to order at 8:38 p.m. by President Paul (Rip) Ripple, W9SIZ with 8 members attending. Those present were Tom, N9LZW; Paul, W9SIZ; Sherm, W9NGT; Bill, N9IBU; Paul, N9KIK; Larry, WB9BVB; Gary, W9XT; and Jim, KB9LTW.

The minutes of the July 9, 1998 meeting were read by Secretary Tom, N9LZW. There was a motion by Paul, N9KIK, seconded by Sherm, W9NGT, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

There was no treasurer's report available due to the absence of the Treasurer. (Dave, KA9RNU, arrived after the meeting and said that he had forgotten about the meeting.)

NEW BUSINESS

Under new business, the annual club picnic was discussed. It would be held on the following Saturday, August 15 at

Heritage Trails Park on County Trunk Highway E south of Slinger. Setup was scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Tom, N9LZW, said the only correspondence was a letter to Chief Gary Karnitz of the St. Lawrence Fire Department thanking them for the use of their facilities. He also sent out meeting announcements to the West Bend and Hartford newspapers and the West Bend and Hartford radio stations. Tom said that he now has their fax numbers which makes distributing these announcements easier.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry, WB9BVB, opened a discussion on our club dues. Gary, W9XT, questioned if there were people who weren't joining or renewing because of the cost of dues. There was a consensus that

Vanity Update

Vanity update: Despite the fact that the vanity call sign fee does not drop to \$13 until after September 14, there's little indication that anyone is waiting for that to happen before filing. The FCC in Gettysburg reports vanity applications through July 31 were processed this past week. In two processing runs, there were 188 grants and 245 applications ended up in the work-in-process (WIPs) stack. Among the more interesting call signs among the last two batches: KC2NYC, N4FUN, WR4USA, K3SEX, K7BEE, and K2FLY.

The ARRL Letter, 8/21/98

Please turn to page 12

Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 11

the inclusion of the cost of a Badger State Smoke Signals subscription in our dues was hurting our membership. There was discussion about sending out meeting notices by postcard. Gary, W9XT, will look into the cost of doing this.

Rip, W9SIZ, discussed the upcoming programs. Larry, WB9BVB, would be doing a presentation on SSTV (slow-scan tv) after this meeting. Don, K9GR, would be doing a program entitled 'How Our Repeater System Works' after the September 10 meeting. Gary, W9XT, would do a program on Homebrew Project Techniques after the October meeting. Keith, KY9P, would be doing a program following the November meeting. Rip said that members should be prepared to answer the '5 Questions About Your Ham Interests' at any time.

President Rip, W9SIZ, asked if there was a motion to adjourn. There was a motion by Sherm, W9NGT, seconded by Larry, WB9BVB to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW, Secretary*

Following the meeting, Larry, WB9BVB, gave a presentation on slow scan tv. Larry had a computer system set

up and explained the basic requirements needed to monitor and copy slow scan TV. You need a computer with an appropriate software program. You also need a sound card in your computer and a simple interface that connects between your rig and the sound card.

Larry showed us a sampling of the pictures that he has received using slow scan TV. Larry also was able to connect to the Internet and show some Web Sites devoted to slow scan TV and sites that offer shareware programs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thu 09/03/98 7:30 P.M. Net, 146.730 (pl 127.3)

Sat 09/05/98 9:00 A.M. Club breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson

Thu 09/10/98 7:30 P.M. Club meeting, Rm #1020, Washington County Courthouse

Sat 09/12/98 9:00 A.M. Club breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford

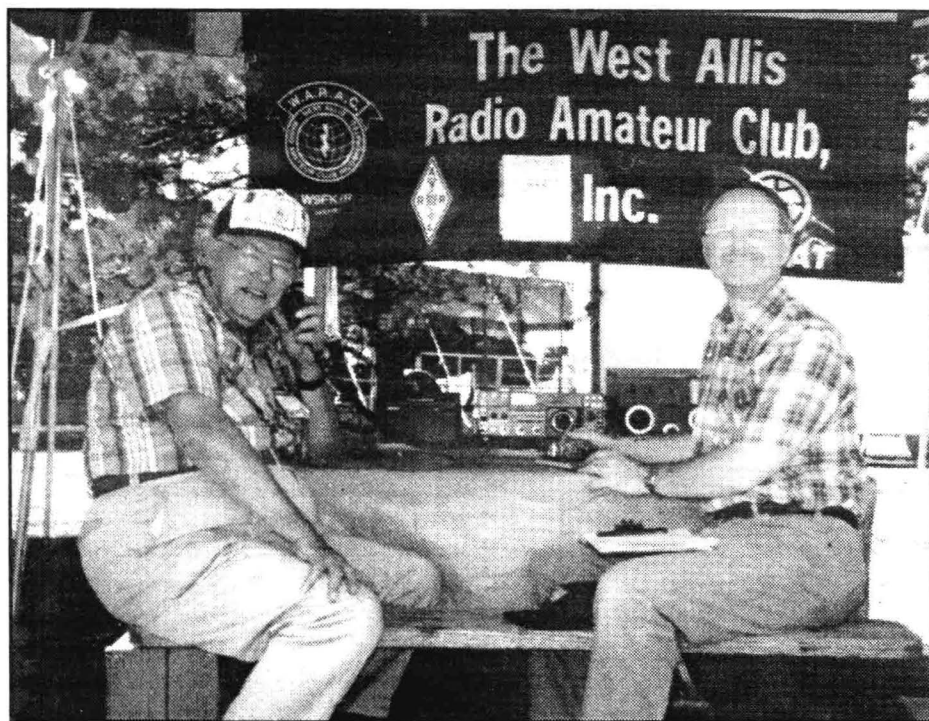
Thu 09/17/98 7:30 P.M. Net, 146.730 (pl 127.3)

Sat 09/19/98 9:00 A.M. Club breakfast, ALMA'S CAFE (Located in Addison Station at 5022 Addison Road which is between CTH K and M.J. Stevens)

Thu 09/24/98 7:30 P.M. Net, 146.730

Sat 09/26/98 9:00 A.M. Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson

Do you C who I C?



At left is Les Peterson, W9YCV, at right, Rich Regent, K9GDF. They're happy campers as they operate special event station W 9 C at the Great Circus Parade Showgrounds in Milwaukee. This operation was done at literally a moment's notice. K9KJT and your editor needed someone to set up and "go for it". I suggested calling Les. Les, in turn, roused more members of his club (see banner in photo) and they, with a few others, had a great time and did a first-rate job. Bob and I thank them for a first-rate job. All who made contact with the station will receive full-color certificates, supplied by Amateur Electronic Supply. Perhaps this will become an annual event.. Everyone wins: the circus parade and museum get great free PR and we get to show off ham radio.

Photo by Bob Goldstein/K9KJT

Amateur Rules Comment Filing Clarification

In its amateur rules "streamlining" Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket 98-143, the FCC appears to require that comments filed on paper in this proceeding be accompanied by a word processing file on a computer disk. The FCC's Monte DePont has stated that this is not a strict requirement, and the FCC will continue to accept comments on paper only, unaccompanied by a computer file on disk. Diskless commenters may include a footnote saying: "My comments are being filed on paper only without a diskette, since it is not feasible for me to include a diskette."

--thanks to Nick Leggett, N3NL

The ARRL Letter, 8/21/98

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.



Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary



E616 810th Avenue

Knapp, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings, RCRA sponsors and guests.

It give us great pleasure to inform you that another \$82.75 was raised on August 8 at a thrift sale of family household items donated to RCRA. Many of the items were left over from our spring thrift sale. There will probably be one more chance this fall to place these items out for sale. If you are cleaning out around the place, think of the repeater as an outlet. Thanks to all who donated items.

Area amateurs will again be helping with the Boyceville Fly-In as requested by WB9WKO, Ron at Knapp, and the annual Tinman Triathlon at Menomonie coordinated by NX9F, Jim Ley.

It appears that the "Mad Kerchunker" has taken up residence in the area and is active on the Menomonie and Eau Claire repeaters all day and into the evening hours. The signal is straight east of Knapp and moves quickly between repeaters with no audio. We need some help on the problem. Please remember to discount accidental keyups and band openings.

KB9NIR, Scott Kilde, has returned to the air after having some mobile antenna problems most of the summer.

WA9CCB, Louis Forster at Durand, has purchased a new television and is donating the old one to RCRA. Thanks, Louis.

KB9MMT, Jeff Wait at Menomonie, has a Kenwood TS-520 transceiver for sale for \$350. Call Jeff at (715) 235-7032.

NQ9X, Ed Van Sickle at Whitehall, has an Ameritron HF amp for sale. Call Ed at (715) 694-2101.

The RCRA has a mint Swan 500 CX with desk mike and power supply for sale at \$275. This is a pick up item only. Call (715) 665-2374.

It is time for the first fall social hour. Here's hoping to see many of you at the Peppermill Restaurant in the L-Mart Shopping Center at 1414 9th Street, Menomonie on September 22. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

KB9RQE, Dan Holmen at Colfax, will be helping net control on Monday evenings on the repeater. If you are interested, please let us know so we can get you an outline of the callup.

The RCRA is in need of additional directors. If you think you have the interest and time to dedicate, please contact us at the secretary's address. It would be nice to fill these positions this fall.

N9PPE, Jeff Cole at Bloomer, has a new car. Jeff also attended the flyin at Oshkosh.

N0PDD, Bob Stark at Winona, MN, reports that there will be an RC plane flyin at Winona's Conrad Airfield on September 13. Time is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Bring your own table.

73.

*Steve Hart, KA9OMC
RCRA Secretary/Treasurer*

Mancorad Radio Club

Mary Langer, KB9GOY,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

• Our regular meetings are starting again on September 9. We meet in the lower level of the Associated Bank at 7:30 p.m.

• Our club picnic is set for October 3 at Lincoln Park, Cabin #1.

• Elections are coming up in November.

ber.

• The sub-event went very well on Aug. 15. There were lots of contacts made and quite a few people helping out.

The *Chronicle* in Manitowoc did an article on it.

New York club creates \$100,000+ scholarship fund

The Schenectady (New York) Amateur Radio Association (SARA) has used a trust established by the late William G. Broughton, W2IR--one of its most prominent members--to create a \$100,000 scholarship fund. The scholarship will benefit college-bound hams in the Schenectady, New York, region. The stock transfer worth nearly \$120,000 represents the single largest scholarship fund seed ever received by the ARRL Foundation, which will administer the fund.

The scholarship will be known as The Henry Broughton, K2AE, Memorial Scholarship. K2AE now is SARA's club station call sign. SARA established the scholarship to honor the memory of Henry Broughton, William's father. SARA says Henry Broughton's early work with Nikola Tesla exemplified the pioneering efforts of early wireless experimenters. William Broughton created the trust fund about 40 years ago in his father's memory.

Eastern New York Section Manager Rob Leiden, KR2L, said Broughton established the trust to help area Amateur Radio operators receive a quality education. "Bill understood that many college-educated Amateur Radio operators have made some of the most important scientific and engineering discoveries in this century," he said. "He was determined to do what he could to help maintain that record of achievement."

Applicants for the annual \$1000 award must hold a General class or higher license and be accepted at or attend a four-year college or graduate program. Preference goes to students who live within 70 miles of Schenectady. Applicants must be enrolled in a course of technical study, such as engineering or the sciences, and academic excellence is the primary consideration. More than one scholarship may be awarded if the fund's earnings permit.

The Schenectady Amateur Radio Association and representatives from the American Radio Relay League celebrated the creation of the scholarship fund May 4, although formalities to establish the fund were only completed this summer.

The ARRL Letter, 8/21/98



A friend with a friend

In the photo at left are your editor (left) and a friend of many years, Maury Mead, W9FBC, of the Fox Valley area. The photo was taken alongside Wisconsin Southern Engine 1848, which pulled the Great Circus Train to Milwaukee this past July. The engine, freshly painted bright red, even had a full-color Wisconsin Sesquicentennial logo on each side. Colorful!! □

From the Editor

Lots of things are on the burner as this issue heads to press.

First is the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, currently in Congress. Only one representative from our state has signed as a co-sponsor, our own 2nd District congressman Scott Klug. Thank you, Scott. That leaves ten others as well as two senators (Kohl and Feingold) whose names are conspicuously missing. Take fifteen minutes of your time, spend a couple of bucks (gasp!) and call their Washington offices and ask their aides to ask these people to sign on. Amateur Radio stands to benefit if this bill gets enough co-sponsors to show it has wide support. Do we go for it, or do we let another opportunity go down the john? It is your call, literally. Call area code 202 and ask for the House or Senate switchboard; you will be connected. If you don't know who your congressman is, call your county clerk and ask. Let's try to get all of them on board. We have some very remarkable hams here in Wisconsin, and we can do this. But that will happen only if you do your part. Thanks in advance.

I note some complaining about BSSS rates. Look at the boxed rate schedule at the left. Then, ask yourself how much you paid for your most recent can of beer or even a cup of coffee. I would also remind you that we will be going to a Web version of this paper, with both versions concurrent. But there is a great deal of research to do, and there is advertising to sell (help!!) to pay for the Web version. Remember, not everyone, not even hams, all have the InterNet. Not yet, anyway.

We need more good stories and articles. One of the best series we have ever printed is the computer series by Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR. This kind gentleman invests a tremendous amount of time preparing that column. We who are computerized have all learned much from his down-to-earth scribings. We can use more articles like his, but human interest stories, simple construction articles, and so on, are needed as well. A while back, a Stevens Point ham wrote such a great story about communications for the Special Olympics it even brought a tear to my jaded eyes. It was also such a good story I bumped it to ARRL. As a result, Joe Larson, W9JW, is nationally published. If you are unsure of your writing skills but have a story to tell, write it. We will work with you to put it in the best form possible.

Tower ordinances are being proposed all over the place. You are encouraged to be watchful for these, and then to take part in helping the governmental body craft the ordinance or statute. In most cases, your offer and input will be welcomed! Columbia County has theirs done and passed. Amateurs are exempt, thanks to the work of Ken, K9EN, and his input to the committee. I am still working here in Sauk County with the people charged with researching the law. I was asked only one question for which I was not 100% sure of the answer. It involved towers possibly impacting property values. An email to a Washington DC attorney brought a next-day answer: Towers do not affect property values, according to several very costly studies. They may affect speed of sale, but not what property is worth. I provided hard copy to the folks here from the attorney. It is actually an interesting experience to be involved in a process like this.

It is possible to shoot yourself in the foot in these situations. Don't mouth off, and never, never provide an answer if you are not sure. Tell them you will research it, get the information, and do it.

Here's an important fact to pass along: An antenna at 60 feet versus 30 feet, power the same, will produce only 1/4 the field strength at ground level; this is the well-known inverse square law.

Off the soapbox and back to the sick bed. 73.

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

Badger State Smoke Signals

The Wisconsin Area's Monthly Amateur Radio Newspaper

Discounted Non-Commercial Advertising Rates

Hamfest/Swapfest business card: \$90.00 per year
(includes 1 no-charge flyer reproduction)

Hamfest Flyer reproduction only: \$45.00
Two times: \$80.00
Additional flyer reproductions: \$35.00

There is no additional charge for "Business Card" Swapfest advertisers for one hamfest/swapfest flyer inclusion. \$45.00 for each additional inclusion.

We will reduce a typical 8.5 x 11 inch hamfest/swapfest flyer to fit a 9 inch x 2 column space.

FLYERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE EVENT.

INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions: 1 year: \$13.95 • 2 years: \$25.95 (save \$1.95)
3 years: \$37.95 (save \$3.90)

CLUB RATES

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS OF CLUB ONLY

10 or more subscriptions: \$10.92 per year (91 cents a month) • 50 or more subscriptions: \$10.32 per year (86 cents a month)

ALL MEMBERS OF CLUB (BILLED QUARTERLY)

Less than 50 members: \$10.32 per year (86 cents a month) • 50 or more members: \$9.72 per year (81 cents a month)

Must include all members of club to qualify for rate. Also, up to 15 percent additional complimentary mailings can be included at no additional cost. (Useful for political/community leaders and/or prospective members, furnishing libraries with subscriptions, etc.)

Contact BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS, Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, Wisconsin 53901, (608) 742-3560, Internet e-mail kebneter@palacenet.net or Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412½ Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913, (608) 356-4031, Internet e-mail smokesigs@baraboo.com



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC

609 Wilson Street • Neenah, WI 54956

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 720 N. Broadway (Upper West) • Green Bay, WI 54303

WAPR News - September, 1998

School has begun, the leaves are changing, and another winter is looking us in the eyes. While the winter usually finds us more active with packet radio, there usually is no shortage of projects we need to complete before the snow flies. I hope you are in the enviable position of being "all caught up". I know I have a way to go before it happens for me!

There is one thing that has been "caught up" recently. The WAPR Web page (<http://netnet.net/~ke9ljz>) has been updated with all 40 parts of the "Using the Wisconsin Network" appearing now. If you missed some of the past articles, you will want to check this out.

I received a nice note from Dan, AA9L concerning last month's "Web Packet" article. He did mention that some of what was written about was a little too technical for him, and he suspects for most packet operators. I can only encourage those folks with questions to send me packet mail, E-Mail or U.S. Mail with your questions. I will try to answer them individually. If there are enough questions, I will gladly devote a column to the questions and answers on the subject.

As a matter of fact, I am open to questions and comments on any packet related subject. My various addresses are listed at the top of the page.

I also encourage you to forward results of packet experiments, some new packet program you've found, or anything pertinent to packet radio. I would love to play and experiment all day, but there just isn't the time. So, I would be happy to pass along the results of your experiment, or any other packet news you may have.

Stay tuned to your local BBS and this column for news on the next WAPR meeting. As of this writing, we are arranging for our next quarterly meeting.

That is all for this month. Until next time, 73.

Host, Terminal and KISS

What and Why

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Over the course of the years I have been playing with packet, there is one series of questions that I seldom have seen discussed. It has to do with "host" programs and "terminal" programs. People have asked "what's the difference. In this article, we will set about explaining the differences and the desirability of each.

Packet operators have seen these terms in their TNC manuals and many may have forgotten just what they mean, and what they are used for. Simply put, these are 3 methods that the computer may use to communicate with your TNC. Kantronics calls it the "interface", and gives you these options as well as a fourth - "newuser". This is really a limited version of the "terminal" interface. Some of the user commands have been left out of the "newuser" interface so that new packet operators will have an easier time picking up on the new mode of operation. Comments concerning the terminal interface apply to Kantronics "newuser" interface.

Some history behind the Terminal.

Before we launch into the topic of these interfaces, we might take a little time to look at history, and see how this all came to be. The term "terminal" has its origins in the days of Teletype, RTTY and computing.

Back when the Teletype was the only digital communication aside from Morse, the machines used to display and accept text were pretty much like an electric typewriter. They were large motor-driven electro-mechanical devices that had electrical signal outputs and an electrical signal inputs. They used a modem and encoding/decoding circuitry to convert text to and from electrical signals.

The collective assembly of a teletype machine - including the keyboard, printer, and electronic assembly used to encode and decode the signals - was known as a terminal. As technology progressed, the teletype began to be updated. They became smaller, faster, and less mechanical. Technology progressed even faster, and the computer age began.

Of course one goal of computing was to process

information faster and more cheaply than had been previously done. This meant that designers turned their attention to getting rid of the paper in a lot of transactions. Enter the Cathode Ray Tube (the CRT), better known as a picture tube. Using a TV screen made a lot of sense; no need to waste paper when you had the capability to instantly erase mistakes.

In the infancy of computing, machines were huge and very expensive. So it made sense to have one central machine and multiple access points to them. Designers lifted a page from the teletype era and incorporated a keyboard to send input to the computer and a CRT to display any output from it. The computer terminal was born.

You may have heard the term "dumb terminal". It is named that way because by itself, the terminal has little computing power. Only when it is connected to some kind of other device, such as a computer (in our case, a TNC) before is it useful, or "smart". This also meant it was cheaper. Using a remote terminal and a telephone circuit, one could remotely access a computer while only making a minimal investment.

Now we have the era of the personal computer. This type of computer, unlike its mainframe cousin, has a terminal unit built right into it. Because we still need terminals to communicate with certain types of computers (like a TNC), we have "terminal emulation programs" that allow our personal computers to function as a stand-alone terminal. So when we have our TNC set to the "terminal interface" mode, the TNC expects to talk to a terminal, or something that pretends to be a terminal (like your PC running a terminal emulation program).

What your TNC does in the terminal interface mode:

The terminal interface mode is the simplest way to operate a TNC. You use a terminal emulator (such as a telephone modem program) or a real computer terminal to type to the TNC. There are predetermined commands that the TNC can understand, one of which will put the terminal into the "converse" mode. In this mode, the TNC is connected to another, and text is passed from one terminal to the TNC, sent over the air to another TNC, where it is interpreted and displayed on someone else's screen.

Most of us have, and maybe even still, use the terminal interface to our TNC's. This is the simplest of ways to operate a TNC, but the TNC must do extra "work" to interpret English language commands and display

information in English. In short, the TNC does almost all of the work from interpreting normal language commands to assembling the packet and seeing that each packet is sent and acknowledged.

There are two problems with the terminal interface to your TNC, however. First, there is a lot of the TNC's computer time devoted to communicating with the computer user. Computers naturally speak a language of Zeroes and Ones (binary), while we speak English. This also means that we are somewhat limited as to what the TNC can do. We are "locked in" to a predetermined set of commands and parameters.

Enter the Host mode.

In this type of user interface, the TNC's load is lightened because the computer connected to it does more of the work. Instead of the computer acting as a simple "terminal emulator", it interprets English commands and sends them in Binary language to the TNC. The TNC and computer operate in close synchronization, they are "linked".

This brings out one problem with communicating with a TNC in the Host mode. Each TNC manufacturer has their own host specification, and their own way of "syncing" the computer to the TNC. For example, Kantronics TNCs are made to work with the Hostmaster program sold by them. AEA TNC's also have their own host program, Packratt. MFJ has its own version of Host operation as well. Only one manufacturer uses anything like a "universal" host interface. Paccomm features the WA8DED Host protocol to communicate in Host mode, which was written by WA8DED, Ron Raikes.

While you can't use the WA8DED host mode with Hostmaster, Packratt, or MFJ's Multi-Com, it will work with several other programs like Eskay Packet SP, or TSTHost. The WA8DED Host Mode specification is publicly available - which means that anyone with the knowledge can write a program that uses it.

Aside from less work for the TNC to do, why would you want to use the Host mode? Because it gives you greater capability and ease of use. If you bought a Kantronics TNC and tried both Pacterm (Kantronics' terminal emulator program) and Hostmaster, you know the difference. Hostmaster makes it easier to change channels, make connections, and even monitor other packet traffic on the frequency while you are engaged in a keyboard

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ HOME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME BBS: _____ FREQ: _____ (Listing your home BBS is important)

Your HOME BBS should be a full service BBS, not your TNC's mailbox.

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: _____ DAY _____ NIGHT _____ 24HRS

I OPERATE A: _____ DIGIPEATER WITH ALIAS OF: _____

_____ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKETINTEREST/EXPERTISE IS: _____

_____ YES I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues goes to pay this subscription. cost \$20.00

_____ NO I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke Signals as a part of my WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00

COMPLETE and return this form with your check or money order - \$15.00 membership only or \$20.00 membership and Badger State Smoke Signals. made payable to W.A.P.R. (NOT payable to Bob Gedemer) to:

Bob Gedemer KA9JAC/WAPR
609 Wilson St.
Neenah, WI. 54956-3129

What is KISS?

Most people have heard someone say that they "Put the TNC into KISS..." and have only a vague idea of what it is. The KISS mode demands even more of the computer than Host does because the TNC does even less work. KISS is a necessity when running a BBS or a TCP/IP program.

Instead of the TNC accepting commands and working within certain parameters, the TNC acts more like a traditional modem as well as a packet assembler/disassembler. The computer decides what type of packet to send, when it should be sent, and how it should be sent. All of the TNC's output is "raw" and unprocessed. If you were to hook a terminal up to a TNC running KISS, you would not be able to see the familiar packet headers your TNC will normally show you when you are monitoring. You will see text, and call signs, as well as a number of control characters that will make no sense. This shows you the level of work that a TNC does when in the terminal mode.

Most BBS's operate in the KISS mode so that they can use the facilities of the computer more effectively. The exception to that is the "PaKet" program. With this program, the TNC remains in terminal mode. This makes for an easier setup, but also exposes the program to some misinterpretation. For example, some versions of PaKet respond to monitored text packets as though they were commands.

While the TNC operates easily in KISS mode, the computer has a great deal more to do. That is why most people running BBS's and other "power" programs use faster computers. As complex as some of the BBS and TCP/IP programs are, they need a bit of speed to be able to get all of the work done "on time".

Conclusion

Experimenting with these modes is really something that you can't do very easily, unless you have access to the proper programs intended to operate in these modes. You may be able to get the TNC in and out of the KISS mode with little trouble, but you won't see anything worth your trouble if you use a terminal emulation program. Host mode, as was pointed out earlier, requires very close synchronization between the TNC and the computer it is playing Host to. So if you try to put the computer into Host mode without a proper host program, the TNC will not stay in host mode, and reverts back to terminal mode.

So the long and the short of it is to use a host program if you find your current terminal program lacking. If you want to experiment with exotic programs, you will want to use the KISS mode. The thing to watch here is that you use the Host program intended for a particular TNC, and use KISS only if you have exotic software you wish to try.

Hope this clears up some of the confusion. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

THE TEST POINT

(continued from page 3)

morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held at the operations building of the Madison Metropolitan sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd. To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter at gate.

You should bring a picture ID, your original licence and a copy of your licence. For exams beyond the novice tests, bring a check for \$6.35, made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at (608) 832-6631.

Mark Jenks, NZ9B

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted.

Talk in on 147.87/27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (414) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month. Jan. thru Oct.

Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings start at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC

MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST)

KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All test sessions in Appleton are held at James Madison Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (920) 759-1167.

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walk-ins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.35. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

EAU CLAIRE

The Eau Claire ARC will hold exam sessions on the second



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959



The August 4, 1998 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called at 7:40 p.m. by club president Steve Schulze, N9UDO.

Minutes and Treasurers report were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Dave Spearing, KB9CSW made arrangements for the club's Holiday Party 7 p.m. December 18, 1998 at the Hitching Post in Portage. Bill Klinkner announced that the club paid five dollars for a luminary bag and donated twenty dollars in memory of former club treasurer, Jim Decker, WB9UQT for the American Cancer Society Relay for life to be held August 7 & 8. Plans were finalized for the second annual Circus City Swapfest.

NEW BUSINESS: Elections will be held at the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Saturday in the months of January, April, and October, as well as on the date of their annual hamfest during the summer. For further information contact: Carl F. Searing, W9NW, 1129 Mc Kinley Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703-2219. (715) 834-1303.

SHEBOYGAN, WI

Wednesday dates: Registration 1830 hrs, testing 1900 hrs.

Saturday dates: Registration 0830 hrs, testing 0900 hrs.

Testing site is: Red Cross/Boy Scout Office Building (lower level), 2032 Erie Ave., Sheboygan, WI.

Test site has limited handicap accessibility. Walk-ins are OK but preregistration would be appreciated. Test fee is \$6.35. Make checks payable to SCARC VE Testing. All class tests administered. Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, (920) 876-2370. e-mail <k9xj@excel.net>

ONALASKA, WI (ARRL/VEC)

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club will hold test sessions at the Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Avenue South. registration begins at 9:0 a.m. with testing at 9:15 a.m. Please bring two forms of identification and two copies of all original documents, CSCEs, license, etc. For more information contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 526 13th Ave. N., Onalaska, WI 54650. (608) 783-0723.

MEDFORD, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Taylor County Area AREC. Registration starts 8:30 a.m., testing starts 9:00 a.m. Location: The conference room in the lower level of the Sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Take Ogden St. west off of Hwy. 13 to the courthouse. Park in the lots on the east or south sides of the courthouse or on the street. PLEASE use the entrance on the south side of the courthouse and watch of the signs. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451. (715) 748-4054

PEWAUKEE, WI

With the summer break and Labor Day, we won't be able to start exams again until October. The dates are: October 3, November 7, and December 5, 1998. The location is a little more handicap accessible, room S110 in the back of the science building by the handicap parking interance. WCTC is on Hwy JJ off Hwy 16 from the East 1-94 and Hwy T from West 1-94 just north of GE Medical Systems. Tests start at 9:00 AM and registration ends at 10:00 AM. Contact: Al Johnson, AA7CS

CEDARBURG, WI - ORC HAMFEST

EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARCHAMFEST

GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST

HAYWARD, WI - HAYWARD HAMFEST

KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST

MANITOWOC, WI - LAKESHORE HAMFEST

OAK CREEK, WI - SMARCHAMFEST

RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST

RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST

ROCKFORD, IL - RARC HAMFEST

ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST

SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - SMARCHAMFEST

STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST

WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST

WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST

DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST

See the Swapfest column for additional information and contact persons.

DUBUQUE, IA - ARRL/VEC

Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, NOKAX, 2145 Delicia Drive. Dubuque. IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library. 6340 North Second St. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walk-ins welcome. (Hwy. 251). Loves Park, IL. Contact: Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hutin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail wb9qyv@aol.com

MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday September 1, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. room 14 Baraboo Civic Center.

Raymond J Matlosz, N9MLZ, Club Secretary

The following members and guests were present:

Joseph Rowland	N9PRF	Portage
Dave Estes	KB9QDE	Reedsburg
Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Karen Schulze		Baraboo
Bill Hommel	KA9QFJ	Baraboo
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo
Art Kleefisch	W9WS8	Baraboo
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Dave Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
Steve Schwoegler	K9WD	Wisconsin Dells

From "The Ground Wave", Saint Paul Radio Club.

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)
Contact: Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108
Test Site: St. Paul Technical College
235 Marshall Ave.
St Paul, MN

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Contact: Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ (612) 483-3143
Test Site: Blaine City Hall
9150 Central Ave NE
Blaine, MN

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Bloomington Office of Emergency Management (Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC))

Contact: Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756
Test Site: Fire Station No. 1
94th St. & Nicollet Avenue S.
Bloomington, MN

TESTING: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)

Contact: Bill Martin, A10D (612) 432-0438
Test Site: Hayes Community Center
14601 Hayes Road
Apple Valley, MN

TESTING: Second Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

W5YI Group

Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 542-2553
Test Site: Eden Prairie Library
479 Eden Prairie Drive
Eden Prairie, MN

TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)

Contact: Dave Harrell, K0BTE (612) 459-8678
Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station
8641 80th ST., S
Cottage Grove, MN


TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

The times and places listed above are the usual time and place for each VE team. Occasionally, sessions are canceled or changed. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm the test time and place



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SHOPPER'S GUIDE

SWAPFESTS



27TH ANNUAL MIDWINTER SWAPFEST

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SATURDAY

JANUARY 9, 1999

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Menomonee
Michael R. Placek, KB9SCH,
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Middleton Conference Center

(Same place as 1998 with new name)

1313 John Q. Hammons Drive

Just west of intersection of Beltline and Greenway Blvd.

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P. O. Box 8890

Madison, WI 53708-8890

Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SWAPFEST 99

July 10, 1999

(Held every July)

American Legion Park

Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI

(414) 762-3235

Extension: Ask for Verne

P. O. Box 102

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

FOX CITIES HAMFEST

Sunday, November 8, 1998

Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 north of Kaukauna

HAMFEST INFO: Chad Pennings, N9PRC

1912 Russett Ct., Apt. 7 • Appleton WI 54914

(920) 993-0485

EXAM INFO: Larry Siebers, KD9IA • (920) 759-1167

• HTTP://W9ZL.AMPR.ORG

Lakeshore Hamfest

and Computer Swapfest

Manitowoc County Expo

Intersection of Hwys. 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R

Saturday, May 9, 1998

For more information, call:

Glenn, AA9MT: 920-684-7096

Red, N9GHE: 920-684-9097

ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS HAMFEST 1998

YOUR SPRING FAVORITE!

Sunday, March 15, 1998

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

TCARC • 213 Frederick Street

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

414-563-6381

Evenings

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Information: Call, write, or email John Feltz, W9JN

973 E. 1st St., Junction City WI 54443-9614 • (715) 457-2506

E-MAIL: jfw9jn@tzn.net

Eau Amateur Radio Club

HAMFEST

Saturday, July 10, 1999

For Information Contact:

ECARC

P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

http://www.ecarc.org

RACINE AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER SHOW

Sunday, July 26, 1998

8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

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Send to RMC, P.O. Box 3, Racine, WI 53401

Ozaukee Radio Club

21ST ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST Saturday, May 1, 1999

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center

Intersection of Highway 60 and County I

Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,

5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222

Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club

W58 N985 Essex Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1439

Circus City Swapfest

Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Saturday August 8, 1998 • 7 a.m. - noon

Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI

Vendors • Concessions
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Tail Gate Area

\$4 - Advanced
\$5 - At Gate
8 Foot Tables - \$5

Steve Schulze, N9UDO

(808) 358-2313/356-4777

http://www.thelora.com/~sschulze/hamfest.htm

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX

(608) 643-6908/643-6453

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

AUCTION

February 23, 1999 • 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street

Eau Claire, WI

CONTACT:

c Hart, KA9OMC

810th Ave.

715-665-2374

Knapp, WI 54749

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